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Downham Rural District

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1955

Including the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector  
(MR. G. S. SENNITT, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.INST.P.C.)

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Dr. G. B. HOPKINS. M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

---

Arthur Wason, Downham Market



# DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:—

*Chairman:* Mr. H. G. Teverson

*Vice-Chairman:* Mr. C. W. Thornhill

Mr. W. Addison	Mr. H. Leonard
Mr. F. C. Baddock	Col. E. R. Pratt
Mr. W. H. Bentley	Mr. S. J. Proctor
Mr. A. J. Blott	Mr. S. A. Sampson
Mr. W. R. Dent	Mr. F. Starling
Mr. A. Dye	Mr. S. F. L. Warner
Mr. H. Gates	Mr. G. J. T. Wells
Mr. F. Green	Mr. R. R. Wilde
Mr. M. L. Hutson	Mr. E. J. Wright
Rev. I. G. Jones	Mr. G. G. Wright

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

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## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:—

### Medical Officer of Health—

Dr. G. B. HOPKINS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.

### Sanitary Inspector—

G. S. SENNITT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C

### Additional Sanitary Inspector—

G. L. FIELD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

### Clerk to the Health Department—

J. R. OSLER

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE,  
DOWNHAM MARKET.

June, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Downham Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances, health and vital statistics for your district during the year ending 31st December, 1955.

In a year which saw the introduction of a positive National policy for slum clearance it is opportune to say a few words on the impact of such a policy upon the health of the community. Every general practitioner must have thought how much easier his task would often be if he were able to write a prescription for a house instead of for medicine. The diagnosis of anxiety neurosis, "nerves", or neurasthenia, is frequently attributable to the adverse effects of unsatisfactory living conditions, especially in housewives whose lives are continuously circumscribed by these conditions. All the factors which go to making up a real home are potent in producing a background of tranquility upon the basis of which life's adversities can be faced. Anxiety neurosis may be described as a faulty adjustment in a person's mental attitude to life. Every individual is endowed with a degree of mental robustness and his capacity to withstand the anxieties imposed by contemporary life depends upon the former power equalling or exceeding the latter. Any factor tending to increase anxieties beyond the individual's endowment of mental fortitude, whether it be marital unhappiness, frustrated ambition, bad living conditions or bad working conditions, tends to the production of anxiety neurosis. Having fallen victim, the sufferer inevitably seeks an explanation in his physical self and soon finds himself in his doctor's surgery. The importance of this condition can be considered in terms of human suffering and of economics, the two are now inseparable in the welfare state.

Since the war, two general practitioners have published the results of independent investigations into the prevalence of anxiety neurosis in their practices during the course of a year. One found that thirty per cent. the other fifty per cent, of his patients attending surgery did so predominantly or exclusively, by reason of anxiety neurosis. One's experience of general practice would lead to ready acceptance of such figures, and one is obliged to yield pride of place to this condition amongst all human ailments in this country.

The National Health Service costs roughly five hundred million pounds a year, and sickness benefit roughly eighty five million pounds a year. One is tempted to hazard a guess at how much neurosis is costing.

Some time ago the Minister of Health announced his concern over the finding that about twenty per cent of general hospital beds were continuously occupied by cases sent in for investigation and ultimately revealed as cases of anxiety neurosis. Assessing the total of general hospital beds at about three hundred and fifty thousand, and the cost per bed in round figures to be fifteen pounds per week, these in-patient investigations are costing about fifty million pounds a year. Added to this is the cost of treating severe cases in mental hospitals.

General medical services provided by general practitioners are currently costing about fifty five million pounds, and the cost of prescribing about fifty one million pounds. Assessing the incidence of neurosis in general practice at about forty per cent, a further sum of about forty million pounds may be said to be expended upon anxiety neurosis. This by no means exhausts the bill for this condition, and it is probably true to say that this purely mental form of ill-health costs the National Health Service at least one hundred million pounds a year. Added to this there is the cost of sickness benefit attributable to it, probably at least forty per cent of the total, or a fur-



ther forty million pounds a year. The combined cost of this condition might well amount to one hundred and fifty million pounds a year

In so far as bad housing causes this condition, even if it accounts for only one tenth part of it, an annual sum of fifteen million pounds is being expended wastefully as a result of it. The figure may in fact be a great deal higher, but there can be no doubt that it is a large sum, and that viewed in this light slum clearance may fairly be described as a long term policy of national economy. It is a strange paradox that the Rent Restriction Act operates so as to ensure that other sub-standard properties fall to slum property standards as clearance proceeds, and that any progress in the conservation of health and wealth must stem from the number of steps forward exceeding the inevitable steps backward.

The year witnessed the sudden, tragic death of a healthy child of six years of age from poliomyelitis, and three other cases in your district suffered residual paralysis. The real answer to this disease lies in the widespread immunisation of the susceptible population and it is to be hoped that parents will respond to the opportunity to be offered them next Autumn when the efficacy of the British vaccine has been conclusively demonstrated.

The virus of poliomyelitis is frequently demonstrable in sewage and sewage effluent during summer, and can easily be carried by flies to food, as also can numerous other diseases. This mode of spread can be minimised by killing flies and preventing their breeding. In this context, the keeping of household refuse in open containers is particularly dangerous in areas lacking main sewerage, where flies have easy access to sewage or sewage effluent. Despite this latter risk there were no outbreaks of food poisoning, and since the main centres of communal feeding are in the schools this is a tribute to the standards observed therein.

Twenty two per cent of the male, and ten per cent of the female deaths due to cancer were attributable to cancer of the lungs.

I wish to record my appreciation of the loyal, efficient and conscientious way in which your sanitary inspectors have performed their duties, duties which have been particularly onerous in connection with the extensive slum clearance programme upon which your Council has embarked, and in which so much progress has already been made.

G. B. HOPKINS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1955

Area (in acres) .....	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census) .....	19,962
Population, 1951 (Census) .....	24,508
Population 1955 .....	24,000
Number of separate Dwellings occupied 1955 .....	6,810
Rateable Value, 1955 .....	£84,797
Product of a Penny Rate, 1955 .....	£354

LIVE BIRTHS	374	Rate 17.8				
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	Rate England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	359	184	175			
Illegitimate	15	6	9			
	374	190	184	17.8	15.0	14.78

# STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	9	7	2			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	9	7	2	23.5	23.1	21.24

# DEATHS (all causes)

	Total	Male	Female	Rate Downham Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
	212	116	96	9.5	11.7	12.07

# DEATHS (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil

# INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000 live births)

	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	5	4	1			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	5	4	1	13.4	24.9	19.37

# DEATHS from—

Cancer (all ages) .....	43
Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Whooping Cough .....	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	Nil

## Section A

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area .....	124.152 Acres
Population .....	24,000

DEATHS. 212 deaths have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, a decrease of twenty one on the previous year. This, coupled with a small reduction in the population, has given a death rate of 9.5. The average death rate of all rural districts for 1955 is not yet available, but a comparison for the previous year is available. The death rate for 1954 was 10.4, and the average death rate for all rural districts in England and Wales was 10.6.

BIRTHS. 374 births have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, a decrease of 35 from the 1954 figure, and of 75 from the 1953 figure.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY. The number of infants dying under the age of one year was five.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. It was necessary to arrange burial of one person during the year under this Act. No action was taken for the removal of any old persons in need of care and attention.

## Section B

### 1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich. Clerk,  
R. J. Cobb, Esq.

### 2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer:—Dr. J. B. EWEN, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Croft-Holme, 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

#### (a) GENERAL.

- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) St. James Hospital, King's Lynn. (For chronic sick).
- (v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

#### (b) MATERNITY.

- (i) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
- (ii) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
- (iii) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.

#### (c) INFECTIOUS.

- (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

#### (d) SANATORIA.

- (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (ii) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

#### (e) MENTAL.

- (i) St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (iii) Heckingham Sanatorium, Norwich.
- (iv) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

### 3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

#### (a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served):—

Nurse Gerrard, Munson's Place, Feltwell, Thetford.  
(Feltwell, Hockwold).

Nurse Hunns, Lower Green, Methwold, Thetford.  
(Methwold).

Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow, King's Lynn.

(Wimbotsham, Stow, Wormegay, Sth. Runcton, Stone Cross Est.)

Nurse Porter, Nurse's Home, Nordelph.  
(Downham West, Nordelph).

Nurse Harris, 20, Barton Bendish.  
(Stoke Ferry, Whittington).

Nurse Mosley, 6, Queen's Place, Wiggenhall St. Germans, K. Lynn.  
(Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall St. Germans, Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen, Watlington, Tottenhill).

Nurse Horn, 27, Barton Bendish, King's Lynn.

(Marham, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Stradsett, Fincham, Barton Bendish).

(Temporary) Mrs. Bunkall, The Cottage, Sluice Road, Denver.  
(Denver, Ryston, Fordham, Hilgay).

Nurse Pollard, Nurse's Bungalow, Southery, Downham Market.  
(Southery).

Nurse Williams, 2, Queen's Close, Wereham.

(Crimplesham, West Dereham, Wereham, Boughton, Wretton).

Nurse Armitage, 62, Station Road, Middleton.  
(Setch).



(b) **MATERNITY.**

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.  
Stow Hall Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

**4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.**

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee.

The Downham Rural Area is jointly served by the Downham Market, King's Lynn and Thetford Ambulances. Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service with effect from 1st April, 1954, was taken over by the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.

**5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.**

- (a) Wiggenshall St. Germans — Mrs. Richer.
- (b) Watlington — Mrs. Thomas.
- (c) Marham — Mrs. F. Brown.
- (d) Downham Market — Mrs. I. Burbeck.

**6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

(a) **INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.**

- (i) Downham Market
- (ii) Wimbotsham
- (iii) Methwold
- (iv) Feltwell

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at the following villages: Fincham, Hockwold, Hilgay, Northwold, Shouldham, Southery, Stoke Ferry, Watlington, Welney, West Dereham, Magdalen, Wormegay, St. Germans, Nordelph and Marham.

(b) **SCHOOL MINOR AILMENT CLINICS.**

Local Health Office, Downham Market (every Wednesday during term)

(c) **SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC.**

Local Health Office, Downham Market (Tuesdays and Fridays).

(d) **HOME HELP SERVICE.**

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are at present available for the following Parishes and Villages: Feltwell, Hockwold, Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Wereham, West Dereham, Stow Bridge, Watlington, Magdalen, St. Germans, Methwold, Denver, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Hilgay, Fincham, Setch, Tottenhill, Wimbotsham, Runcton Holme and Bexwell.

**7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.**

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MALES: Tuesdays and Fridays—7 p.m.

FEMALES AND CHILDREN: Tuesdays and Wednesdays—3 p.m.

**8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.**

- (i) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Staff.
- (ii) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc., which cannot be carried out by this department, are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

**9. LABORATORY SERVICES.**

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Under the direction of Dr. I. M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, W. Lincoln Sutton, Esq., F.R.I.C., Redwell Street, Norwich.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.



## Section C

### PREVALANCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

#### SCARLET FEVER.

22 cases were notified.

#### DIPHThERIA.

No Cases were notified.

#### DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

This is carried out when requested at infant welfare centres and schools.

The following table gives the numbers of children either primarily immunised by a full course of injections, or stimulated to maximum immunity by booster doses, during the last five years:—

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
254	251	191	187	226

#### PNEUMONIA.

43 cases were notified, in one of which there was a fatal termination.

#### ERYSIPELAS.

4 cases were notified.

#### MEASLES.

150 cases were notified and there were no deaths. Statistics of complications arising from these cases are not available.

#### INFECTIVE JAUNDICE.

1 case was notified.

#### ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

4 paralytic and 2 non-paralytic cases were notified, there was one death.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

11 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and there was one death. Four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, three involved glands of the neck and were therefore attributable to tuberculous milk.

#### CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

Number of Schools	Number of Days Closed	Reason for Closure
1	12½	Poliomyelitis
1	4	Measles, Influenza, Coughs and Colds

**Section D**  
**STATISTICAL TABLES, 1955**  
Causes of Death.

Table No. 1

Causes of Death		Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	—	1
2	Tuberculosis, other forms .....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic diseases .....	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	1	1
8	Measles .....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....	7	4	11
11	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	5	2	7
12	Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....	—	6	6
13	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .....	—	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms .....	11	8	19
15	Leukæmia .....	—	2	2
16	Diabetes .....	—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system....	15	19	34
18	Coronary disease, angina .....	14	5	19
19	Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	4	5
20	Other heart diseases .....	20	19	39
21	Other Circulatory diseases .....	8	7	15
22	Influenza .....	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia .....	10	3	13
24	Bronchitis .....	3	2	5
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa.....	1	1	2
28	Nephritis, Nephrosis .....	2	—	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations .....	—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases..	11	7	18
33	Motor vehicle accidents .....	2	1	3
34	All other accidents .....	—	1	1
35	Suicide .....	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—	—
All causes....		116	96	212

# DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN

Table No. 2

## CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR—1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE IN WEEKS					Total
	1	2	3	4	5-52	
1 Congenital malformations ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Diseases of early infancy:						
(a) Congenital abnormality	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Premature birth .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
(c) Injury at birth.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Atelectasis .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
(e) Others .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 Diseases of the Respiratory System .....	1	—	—	—	1	2
4 Diseases of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis Disease .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 Infectious Disease .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
8 Syphilis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
9 Overlaying .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 Violence .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
11 All other causes .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total....	3	—	—	—	2	5

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1955

Table No. 3

## Notification in Age Groups—

DISEASE	AGES												Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Measles ...	5	12	15	17	17	73	5	1	2	2	1	—	150	—	—
Whooping C.	3	3	3	2	3	18	—	—	—	1	—	—	33	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	1	1	1	6	—	3	11	2	7	10	43	2	1
Puer. Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	—	—
Bac. Dysentery	—	—	—	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	12	8	1	—	—	—	—	22	1	—
Malaria (Clinical Relapsed)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Paralytic Polio	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	4	1
Non-Para Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Infec. Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	8	17	19	24	26	113	14	6	17	6	9	13	272	9	2

**MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1955** Table No. 4

(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Measles ...	15	42	52	5	12	5	9	8	2	—	—	—	150
Whooping C.	2	1	—	—	—	3	5	6	—	1	1	14	33
Pneumonia ...	10	8	3	10	3	1	—	1	2	—	1	4	43
Puer. Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
Bac. Dysentery	—	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Scarlet Fever	—	—	10	7	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	22
Malaria (Clinical Relapsed)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paralytic Polio	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	4
Non-Para Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Infec. Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	28	61	67	22	18	9	16	20	5	2	4	20	272

**NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS—1955** Table No. 5

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non Respir.		Respiratory		Non Respir.		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	6	3	1	1	—	—	—	1



## Section E

### REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the work of the Health Department in 1955.

During the first six months of the year, an intensive survey was resumed to complete the records of the number of unfit houses in the District which were incapable of economic repair and suitable for demolition. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government required all Local Housing Authorities to supply figures and submit a programme of repairs and replacement of such houses by the 31st August, 1955.

The completion of the survey was fortunately facilitated by the rapid decline after February of the number of animals dealt with at a slaughterhouse at Methwold, and the assistance of the Swaffham R.D.C. Sanitary Inspectors in carrying out Meat Inspection at three slaughterhouses in the District, was valuable.

100% inspection of all food animals slaughtered for sale in the District was maintained throughout the year.

A survey of the conditions of houses along the banks of the River Ouse was also undertaken, so that the impact of the work of construction of the Flood Relief Channel and bank improvement works on the housing position in the District could be readily assessed.

I again take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation to Members and all Officers of the Council for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

#### 1. SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Drainage and Sanitation .....	414
Water Supply .....	63
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	188
Movable Dwellings .....	14
Petroleum .....	12
Rodent Control .....	14
Rural Housing Survey.....	372
River Bank Survey .....	149
Other Housing Visits .....	1130
Infectious Disease .....	55
Factories .....	26
Salvage .....	8
Licensed Premises .....	4
Milk and Dairies .....	7
Food Premises .....	148
Ice-cream Premises .....	26
Meat Inspection .....	590
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops .....	31
Bakehouses .....	2
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .....	249
Total :	3502

## 2. COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

Only £2 complaints were entered in the register, but many more than this were investigated and dealt with. It is difficult to ensure that all verbal complaints are entered.

The complaints were mainly of unsatisfactory drainage, flooding, housing defects and smells from accumulations of refuse and other organic matter and the keeping of animals.

## 3. NOTICES SERVED.

The number of written Notices, other than Housing Act Notices, served during the year was 50, classified as follows:—

	<i>Informal (Letters)</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Complied with Notices served dur- ing 1954</i>
Housing Repairs ....	29	—	8	5
Drainage .....	9	—	4	2
Food Premises .....	3	—	2	—
Dirty Conditions ....	—	—	—	—
Water Supply .....	3	—	2	—
Miscellaneous .....	6	—	5	—
Totals ..	50	—	21	7

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

## 4. FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

### (a) General.

148 visits were made during the year, in addition to special visits made to slaughterhouses, butchers shops, dairies, etc. Controversy over the form and contents of proposed new Food Hygiene Regulations continued in Parliament, in the Press and in the Food Trades, but there is a great need for suitable Regulations embodying modern knowledge. Who can deny that a constant supply of hot and cold water with soap and clean towels is necessary in any food business? Let Local Authorities be given effective Regulations to administer without delay!

At the 31st December, there were in the District:—

- 5 Fishmongers (selling wet fish),
- 13 Fish Friers (including 2 mobile units),
- 9 Bakehouses,
- 23 Butchers Shops,
- 8 Licensed Slaughterhouses,
- 5 Cafes,
- 102 Licensed Houses,
- 3 Greengrocers,
- 124 General Food Shops.

(b) *'Ice-Cream.*

Seven new premises were registered during the year, and two persons ceased to sell. At 31st December, 1955, 59 premises were selling ice-cream, all of it being prepacked and prepared by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried on in the District.

17 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results:—

	No. of Samples	Grade			
		I	II	III	IV
Source 'A'	4	2	2	—	—
„ 'B'	5	5	—	—	—
„ 'C'	5	5	—	—	—
„ 'D'	3	2	—	—	1
Totals ..	17	14	2	—	1

Generally, the ice-cream supplied in the District is of a high bacteriological standard. The one poor sample from source 'D' was investigated, but could not be attributed to any particular cause.

(c) *Slaughterhouses.*

The rapid decrease in the number of animals dealt with at a Methwold slaughterhouse, which was under different ownership, has been mentioned previously. Your Sanitary Inspectors again took over the inspection of all animals slaughtered in the District on 31st July, 1955, after receiving very useful help from the Swaffham R.D.C. over a period of six months.

The licences of three slaughterhouses were not renewed for certain periods during the year owing to the fact that they were not considered up to standard, but two licences were renewed by the end of the year after repairs had been carried out.

At 31st December, 1955, there were eight slaughterhouses in the District, all except one being licensed up to 31st July, 1959. Regular slaughtering was being undertaken at six of the eight premises.

Situation of premises:—

Marham — 1; Stoke Ferry — 2; Methwold — 1; Hilgay — 1;  
Watlington — 1; Stow Bridge — 1; Magdalen — 1.

There were no complaints of nuisance arising from the use of slaughterhouses, and generally the standard of dressing and cleanliness was satisfactory, although at certain premises greater cleanliness is necessary in respect of offals.

Condemned meat continued to be disposed of by burial or by sale to a Knacker Dealer, after being dyed green by your Officers. Control over disposal of this material is far from satisfactory, and it is certainly time that distribution should be prohibited unless proper sterilisation has taken place beforehand.

(d) *Slaughtermen.*

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the District at 31st December, 1955, was 27.

(e) Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .....	474	79	5	849	3892	—
Number inspected .....	474	79	5	849	3892	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	71	27	—	13	346	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .....	14.98	34.18	—	1.53	8.91	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	26	7	—	—	153	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	5.9	8.86	—	—	3.98	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—



(f) *Condemned Meat.*

	lbs.
Beasts — carcase meat .....	2087
— head and offal .....	2375
Pigs — carcase meat .....	373 $\frac{3}{4}$
— head and offal.....	2446 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sheep — offal .....	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total weight condemned..	<hr/> 7330 or 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons approx. <hr/>

The following food was also condemned:—

- 2 — 12 oz. tins pork luncheon meat,
- 2 tins evaporated milk,
- 64 lbs. imported beef.

(g) *Milk and Dairies.*

At the 31st December, 1955, 6 dairies and 23 distributors were registered by the Council. No new registrations were made during the year.

As regards designated milk, 12 “Dealers” Licences in respect of “Tuberculin Tested” and 11 in respect of “Pasteurised” milk were issued.

In addition, the following “Supplementary Dealers” Licences were issued to persons trading from premises in other districts:—

10 “Tuberculin Tested”, 11 “Pasteurised”, 1 “Sterilised”.

The District does not yet form part of a “Specified Area” in which designated milk only may be sold but it is hoped that such a development may not be long delayed. It is also hoped that some method by which the cost of waxed paper cartons can be brought down to an economic level for milk distribution can be agreed upon by the interests concerned. These non-returnable and very hygienic containers are far superior to bottles.

During the year, samples taken for biological examination from wholesale and retail producers in accordance with the County Council’s programme resulted in one positive sample from the Council’s area, and the slaughter of the offending animal.

5. **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

There is one licensed Knacker Yard in the District at High Street, Fincham, and conditions during the year were satisfactory. Only a small business is carried on.

6. **HOUSING.**

(a) *Generally.*

The Housing Survey to determine the number of unfit houses in the District suitable for demolition was given absolute priority by your Officers, and figures were available for consideration in June.

Total number of permanent dwellings in the District .....	6676
Estimated number of Houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 .....	590

The Council considered that the problem could be dealt with in eight years, and proposed to deal with a total of 379 dwellings in five years.

In addition, it was agreed that the remaining 128 temporary dwellings on the Stone Cross Estate and Methwold Airfield should be closed as soon as possible, and it was proposed to make redundant 75 hutments in the five year period.

"Patching up" of unfit houses by the Council until they could be pulled down was not envisaged.

The Survey of dwellings along the Banks of the River Ouse affected by the flood relief scheme and bank improvement works has been mentioned. Of 267 dwellings within 50 yards of the bank, 110 were considered to be unfit and incapable of economic repair: 21 houses were unoccupied.

During the year, action against houses incapable of economic repair was continued. By the 31st December, 14 houses had been demolished and four "Undertakings not to relet" had been accepted.

In addition, 59 Closing Orders were made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

The Council re-housed many of the tenants from the above houses, although quite a large number were unoccupied and in a very poor condition.

Closing Orders made as above may be converted to Demolition Orders at any time without further notice.

The Council were considering the required new house building programme to meet slum clearance and general needs at the end of the year.

Only three Certificates of Disrepair were granted during the year, and these were not appealed against. All three Certificates were granted in respect of the old Rent Acts. It is apparent that the provisions in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, allowing landlords to increase rents provided houses were in proper repair have been almost completely ineffective.

33 Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, were made by the Council in respect of 40 dwellings, the sum involved being £3382.

#### *(b) Council Houses.*

##### PERMANENT HOUSES.

A total of 63 three-bedroomed houses were completed during the year. This brought the number of permanent houses constructed under the post-war housing programme to 699. A further 23 houses were under construction.

As regards the modernising of pre-war Council houses, the work of providing an internal cold water supply, kitchen sink, W.C. and cesspool drainage was completed in respect of 18 houses. A further 22 houses were contracted for.

##### TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

At 31st December, 1955 119 hutments were still in use on the Stone Cross Estate but the number of occupied hutments at Methwold Airfield had been reduced from 28 to 5.

##### WAITING LISTS.

In December, 1955, an analysis of the waiting lists showed a total of 295 separate applications for accommodation. Of these, 69 families occupied houses classified as unfit and incapable of economic repair, 65 families lived in rooms and 41 families lived outside the District (although 13 worked in the District).

Feltwell again showed the greatest need for accommodation, with Denver and St. Germans equal second.

One Tubercular patient was rehoused during the year.

## GENERALLY.

At 31st December, the number of inhabited dwellings controlled by the Council was as follows:—

### Traditional Houses:—

(a) Pre-war .....	420
(b) Post-war .....	623
Prefabricated Houses, all post-war .....	76
Temporary Houses .....	124
Requisitioned Houses .....	Nil
Flats .....	8
Other properties .....	7
	<hr/>
Total ..	1258

### (c) PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSING.

28 permanent and 3 temporary houses were completed during the year, whilst the construction of 15 permanent and one temporary house had been commenced.

## 7. MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

About 12 Licences on average were in force throughout the year.

The Licences prescribe the sanitary conditions to be observed and are issued annually. Planning Permission has also to be granted in every case.

All the Licences were in respect of individual dwellings. Most of the dwellings were modern trailer caravans, and the sanitary conditions on the sites were quite satisfactory.

## 8. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### (a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

The collection of refuse from the "kerbside" once a fortnight was again maintained throughout the District. Some isolated properties received less frequent service.

Additional help from the direct labour staff is now required at certain times, owing to increased numbers of modern properties dealt with. Collection is maintained in all Parishes at holiday periods.

The refuse storage containers in use in the District continued to be most unsatisfactory and it is essential that the Council should keep this problem of replacement by suitable containers with tightly fitting lids continually in mind.

Two van-type vehicles were employed to collect the refuse and waste paper salvage, but the open tipper truck was employed occasionally in the case of breakdowns and to supplement the other vehicles at holiday times. The older van-type vehicle required considerable maintenance during the year, including a complete moving floor and the replacement of the vehicle may become advisable after another year's service.

The Shouldham Refuse Tip was opened again at the end of the year in order that a proposed road improvement could be facilitated. Tips at Wimbotsham, Hilgay, Whittington, Feltwell, Fincham and Magdalen continued in use, and the tips were controlled as far as possible with available labour. Use of the Hockwold Tip was discontinued after the 27th August, owing to a



fire, which was still burning at the end of the year. It is an exceedingly difficult task to keep the tips in reasonable condition, owing to the activities of persons unknown.

The Council provided and erected four litter baskets in each of the Parishes of Magdalen and Wereham during the year.

(b) *Salvage of Waste Paper.*

32½ tons of waste paper was sent to the mills during the year ended 31st March, 1956, and a surplus of £201:8:4 resulted. The paper is baled by the men in their own time at specific rates per bale according to grade.

(c) *Pail Emptying.*

Pail Closets were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Denver, Fincham, Downham West and Feltwell. The cost of the pail emptying service is met by a Parish Special Rate.

The men were extremely pleased with the low loading arrangements for night soil on the new cesspool emptier.

Disposal was effected by straw composting or direct to agricultural land.

Quite often, the Bedford Tipper vehicle had to be utilized with the special reserve tank for night soil collection. Your Surveyor informs me that this vehicle also is very old and requires increasing maintenance. It is also used as a spare refuse collection vehicle and it is essential that a vehicle of this type is available if the services are to be maintained.

(d) *Cesspool Emptying.*

530 cesspools were emptied during the year, and in addition, 49 sedimentation tanks at sewage plants were desludged. Sedimentation tanks have to be desludged every three or four months.

The demand for cesspool emptying again rose and figures in respect of ordinary cesspools emptied for previous years are as follows:—

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
251	270	319	347	390	501

The new Austin-Eagle Diesel Cesspool Emptier was put into service on the 16th August, 1955, and it soon became apparent that the Eagle equipment was not completely effective in that a full load was difficult to obtain. Your Surveyor took up the question with the makers and certain suggestions were made in regard to the layout of the suction pipe-work and valves. The firm carried out these suggestions in one day at no cost to the Council, and after that the machine proved completely effective.

Cesspool contents were disposed of on farm land or by composting.

## 9. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Your Housing Department continued to maintain 17 sewage plants at various housing sites during the year. 4 new plants were completed at Southery, Hockwold, Stow Bridge and Ten Mile Bank.

The two plants at the Stone Cross Estate were also maintained, and two plants were in the course of construction.

Your Surveyor was not able to make any real progress in the design of a Village Sewage Scheme for Southery during the year, owing to other commitments and similarly the piping of certain dykes containing sewage was not proceeded with by the Health Department.

Cleansing of some dykes was undertaken by the Council to prevent serious nuisance, and sub-irrigation drains had to be installed in connection with certain cesspools.



The problem of flooding and drainage generally at Westgate Street, Shouldham, was much discussed by the Council during the year without a satisfactory solution being found. A solution suggested by a Land Drainage Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Water Committee in 1951 was that River Boards should become responsible for main water-courses situated above the areas of Internal Drainage Boards. Legislation embodying a principle of this nature is definitely required.

10. WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) *Main Piped Supplies.*

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for the 3 sources of supply to the Rural District, viz. the northern half from the bore at Marham, the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell, and the Welney area by purchase in bulk from the Ely R.D.C.

I am again indebted to the Board's Engineer, Mr. J. K. Dawson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:—

- 1. The Water supply of the area was again highly satisfactory in quantity and quality. In spite of an extremely dry summer, there was no necessity to ration water.
- 2. None of the waters supplied by the Board were plumbo-solvent.
- 3. During the year an investigation was made of certain complaints concerning a transient "chlorinous" smell, which appeared in odd places for no apparent reason. The nature of the smell was ascertained, found to be not harmful in any way, and a pilot plant experiment at Marham was run to develop a method of supressing the smell. Additional plant will be required at Marham, which, it is hoped, will be fitted at some future date.
- 4. All new mains were sterilized with chlorine solution and tested bacteriologically before being put to use.

5. SAMPLES TAKEN.

	<i>Bacteriological Examinations</i>			<i>Chemical Analyses</i>
	<i>No. of tests Negative</i>	<i>No. of tests Positive</i>	<i>Total taken</i>	
BOARD'S WORKS.				
Treated Water .....	242	2	244	
Raw Water .....	148	68	216	
CONSUMERS' TAPS .....	32	—	32	
	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	422	70	492	50
	—	—	—	—

Total all examinations and analyses 542.

The differential tests on the positive bacteriological tests showed combinations of the following organisms:—

B. Coli I., B. Aerogenes I., B. Aerogenes II., Intermediate I., Intermediate II.

Treated water samples over the whole of the Downham Rural District area were 99.2% negative for any organisms of the coliform group. This is much within the permitted limits of Ministry of Health Report No. 11.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),  
*Chemist and Bacteriologist.*

# WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Examination Laboratory

## ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 12.00 26/9/55

Lab. No. C 540

From Marham Pumping Station

Labelled 18in. Main

Taken by W. D. Brighton

Date and time 10.40 26/9/55

### 1. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Colonies on Yeastrel agar pr. ml.	Presumptive coliform count.
1 day at 37° C. .... 5	Absent from 100 ml.
2 days at 37° C. .... 5	Bact. coli (Type 1 faecal)
3 days at 22° C. .... 0	Absent from 100 ml.

### 2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Appearance .... Clear and bright	ph. .... 7.3
Turbidity ..... Nil	Odour ..... Normal
Colour ..... Nil	Taste ..... Normal

### 3. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS expressed as parts per million.

Free CO <sub>2</sub> ..... 18.6	Aluminium (Al) ..... Nil
Oxygen dissolved ..... 9.3	Calcium (Ca) ..... 102.5
Oxygen absd. (4hrs. at 37°C) 0.24	Iron (Fe) ..... Nil
Nitrogen Ammoniaéal..... 0.002	Magnesium (Mg) ..... 3.5
Nitrogen Albuminoid ..... 0.02	Manganese (Mn) ..... Nil
Nitrogen Nitrate 5.0 (22.2 as NO <sub>3</sub> )	Lead (Pb) ..... Nil
Nitrogen Nitrite ..... Nil	Sodium (Na) (Calc) ..... 3.15
Alkalinity ..... 196	Zinc (Zn) ..... Nil
Hardness Carbonate ..... 196	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) ..... 7.0
Hardness Non-carbonate..... 72	Sulphate (S.O. <sub>4</sub> ) ..... 23.4
Hardness Total ..... 268	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) ..... 117.5
Free Chlorine ..... 0.4	Chloride (Cl) ..... 27.5
Total Solids (180°C) ..... 365	Fluoride (F) ..... 0.04

### 4. GENERAL REMARKS.

The above results indicate a pure and wholesome water, on the alkaline side of neutrality, and with no excess of mineral constituents in solution. The water is suitable as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),

*Chemist and Bacteriologist.*

# WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

## Water Examination Laboratory

### ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 12.00 19/10/55

Lab. No. C 633

From Denton Lodge Pumping Station

Labelled Denton Lodge Raw Water

Taken by W. D. Brighton

Date and time 10.00 19/10/55

#### 1. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Colonies on Yeastrel agar pr. ml.	Presumptive coliform count.
1 day at 37°C ..... 4	Present in 100ml. Most probable
2 days at 37°C ..... 4	No. 1/100ml. Type Intermediate
3 days at 22°C..... 20	II.
	Bact. coli (Type 1 faecal)
	Absent for 100 ml.

#### 2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Appearance .... Clear and bright	ph. .... 7.3
Turbidity ..... Nil	Odour ..... Normal
Colour ..... Nil	Taste ..... Normal

#### 3. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS expressed as parts per million

Free CO <sub>2</sub> ..... 12.0	Aluminimu (Al) ..... Absent
Oxygen dissolved ..... 9.8	Calcium (Ca) ..... 78.6
Oxygen absd. (4 hrs. at 37°C) 0.12	Iron (Fe) ..... Absent
Nitrogen Ammoniaecal ..... 0.014	Magnesium (Mg).. Not examined
Nitrogen Albuminoid ..... 0.028	Manganese (Mn.) ..... Absent
Nitrogen Nitrate 6.48 (28.2 as NO <sub>3</sub> )	Lead (Pb) ..... Absent
Nitrogen Nitrite ..... Nil	Sodium (Na) ..... Not examined
Alkalinity ..... 164	Zinc (Zn) ..... Absent
Hardness Carbonate ..... 164	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) ..... 5.0
Hardness Non-carbonate .... 34	Sulphate S.O.4) ..... 8.34
Hardness Total ..... 198	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> ) ..... 93.5
Free Chlorine ..... Nil	Chloride (Cl) ..... 15.4
Total Solids (180°C) ..... 313	Fluoride (F) ..... 0.07

#### 4. GENERAL REMARKS.

The sample was clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from injurious metals. The water is only of moderate hardness, and contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution. The presence of minimal numbers of non-faecal coliform organisms is not unusual in a raw water, and the organisms were killed by chlorine treatment.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),

*Chemist and Bacteriologist.*

# WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Schedule of work carried out in the Downham Rural District  
between 1st January, 1955 and 31st December, 1955

## NEW MAINS LAID

Wimbotsham .....	465yds.	3in. main
Mill Lane, Wimbotsham .....	111yds.	3in. main
Stowbridge — Wimblington .....	2009yds.	12in. main
Stocks Hill, Hilgay .....	68yds.	3in. main
Ten Mile Bank Housing Site .....	54yds.	3in. main
Gt. Ouse Flood Protection Scheme (diversion) ..	232yds.	12in. main
Stow Bardolph .....	53yds.	3in. main
St. Germans Housing Site .....	164yds.	3in. main
Marham Housing Site .....	121yds.	3in. main
Watlington Housing Site .....	86yds.	3in. main
Cornerways Farm, Wereham Fen .....	658yds.	3in. main
Whindrove Farm, West Dereham .....	631yds.	3in. main
Downham Agricultural Extension Schemes:—		
No. 2 Long Drove, Hilgay .....	2478yds.	3in. main
No. 13 Continuation of No. 2 .....	864yds.	3in. main
No. 3 Welney — New Bedford River .....	4285yds.	3in. main
No. 9 Ten Mile Bank .....	3717yds.	3in. main
No. 10 Salters Lode .....	367yds.	3in. main

# WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

New Supplies — Downham Rural District

January 1955 — December 1955

Barton Bendish .....	11	South Runcion .....	1
Bexwell .....	2	Stoke Ferry .....	3
Boughton .....	1	Stow Bardolph .....	8
Crimplesham .....	3	Ten Mile Bank .....	22
Denver .....	8	Tottenham .....	2
Feltwell .....	7	Watlington .....	18
Fordham .....	2	Welney .....	1
Hilgay .....	30	Wereham .....	12
Hockwold .....	7	West Dereham .....	8
Marham .....	14	Wiggenhall St. Germans .....	9
Methwold .....	22	Wiggenhall St. Mary Mag. ....	16
Nordelph .....	1	Wimblington .....	1
Northwold .....	5	Wimbotsham .....	8
Runcion Holme .....	4	Wormegay .....	5
Saddlebow .....	2	Wretton .....	2
Setch .....	2		
Shouldham .....	3		
Southery .....	24		
		Total ..	264



(b) *Small Water Supplies.*

15 samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. Of the supplies involved, 5 proved satisfactory and 10 unsatisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory supplies, mains water was laid on in four cases and negotiations in respect of the others were proceeding.

The County Council's policy of examining water supplies from wells which might be used for infant feeding to determine their nitrate content was continued throughout the year. Eight samples were submitted during the year for this purpose, three being from satisfactory supplies. In five cases satisfactory alternative supplies had to be recommended. No infants were examined during the year.

11. FACTORIES.

At 31st December, there were in the District 57 factories where mechanical power was employed and 5 factories with no mechanical power. 26 inspections were made during the year.

One Factory Owner was asked to provide an adequate sanitary block, and plans had been approved by the Council by the end of the year. No other official action was deemed necessary.

12. DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The Council continued to provide free treatment or advice to domestic premises in the District, whilst business, including agricultural premises, were charged at the rate of 7/- per hour.

Warfarin was the main poison used, and zinc phosphide was used occasionally. Liaison was continued with the Pest Control Staff of the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee.

The Rodent Operative made 3183 visits for all purposes, and a total of 645 separate treatments were carried out (461 treatments in 1953, 751 in 1954).

50% of the cost of the service, after deduction of income from treatment at business premises is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*





